

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

A
a splitter unit that comprises a port that is electrically ~~connectable~~ connected directly to a connector of ~~an~~ a plain old telephone service ("POTS") interface circuit of a switch of a central office, wherein the splitter unit and the POTS interface circuit are operably located on a same shelf.

2. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the connect or of the POTS interface circuit comprises a plural number of connection points; and

wherein the splitter unit comprises a plural number of splitter components equal in number and electrically connectable to the plural number of connection points of the POTS interface circuit.

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the port of the splitter unit is employable to electrically connect directly each of the plural number of splitter components with a respective one of the plural number of connection points of the POTS interface circuit.

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the connector of the POTS interface circuit comprises a plural number of connection points; and

wherein the port comprises a plural number of subports equal in number and electrically connectable directly to the plural number of connection points of the POTS interface circuit.

5. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the port comprises a port that is electrically connectable directly to a connector of ~~a plain old telephone service~~ the POTS interface circuit of the switch of the central office.

6. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the port comprises a male interface that is electrically connectable directly to a female interface that comprises the connector of the POTS interface circuit of the switch of the central office.

A
7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the port comprises a first port; and wherein the splitter unit comprises a second port that is electrically connectable directly to a connector of a tip and ring cable of the central office, wherein the second port is electrically connected to the first port.

8. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein the step of selecting the splitter unit to comprise the second port that is electrically connectable directly to the connector of the tip and ring cable of the central office comprises the step of:

selecting the second port to comprise a female interface that is electrically connectable directly to a male interface that comprises the connector of the tip and ring cable of the central office.

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the splitter unit comprises a first splitter unit, wherein the POTS interface circuit comprises a first interface circuit, and further comprising:

a second splitter unit that comprises a port that is electrically connectable directly to a connector of a second interface circuit of the switch of the central office.

10. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the splitter unit is employable to prepare one or more lines of the central office for asymmetric digital subscriber line service.

11. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the POTS interface circuit comprises a physical dimension; and

wherein the splitter unit comprises a physical dimension that substantially matches the physical dimension of the POTS interface circuit.

A 12. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the physical dimension of the POTS interface circuit comprises a first physical dimension of the POTS interface circuit, wherein the POTS interface circuit comprises a second physical dimension; and

wherein the splitter unit comprises a second physical dimension that substantially matches the second physical dimension of the POTS interface circuit.

13. (currently amended) A method, comprising the step of:

selecting a splitter unit that comprises a port that is electrically ~~connectable~~ connected directly to a connector of ~~an~~ a POTS interface circuit of a switch of a central office, wherein the splitter unit and the POTS interface circuit are operably located on a same shelf.

A

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the connector of the POTS interface circuit comprises a plural number of connection points, wherein the step of selecting the splitter unit that comprises the port that is electrically connectable directly to the connector of the POTS interface circuit of the switch of the central office comprises the step of:

selecting the splitter unit to comprise a plural number of splitter components equal in number and electrically connectable to the plural number of connection points of the POTS interface circuit.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of selecting the splitter unit that comprises the port that is electrically connectable directly to the connector of the POTS interface circuit of the switch of the central office comprises the step of:

employing the port of the splitter unit to electrically connect directly each of the plural number of splitter components with a respective one of the plural number of connection points of the POTS interface circuit.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the connector of the POTS interface circuit comprises a plural number of connection points, wherein the step of selecting the splitter unit that comprises the port that is electrically connectable directly to the connector of the POTS interface circuit of the switch of the central office comprises the step of:

selecting the port to comprise a plural number of subports equal in number and electrically connectable directly to the plural number of connection points of the POTS interface circuit.

A 17. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of selecting the splitter unit that comprises the port that is electrically connectable directly to the connector of the POTS interface circuit of the switch of the central office comprises the step of:

selecting the port to comprise a port that is electrically connectable directly to a connector of ~~a plain old telephone service interface circuit~~ the POTS of the switch of the central office.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of selecting the splitter unit that comprises the port that is electrically connectable directly to the connector of the POTS interface circuit of the switch of the central office comprises the step of:

selecting the port to comprise a male interface that is electrically connectable directly to a female interface that comprises the connector of the POTS interface circuit of the switch of the central office.

19. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the port comprises a first port, and further comprising the step of:

selecting the splitter unit to comprise a second port that is electrically connectable directly to a connector of a tip and ring cable of the central office, wherein the second port is electrically connected to the first port.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of selecting the splitter unit to comprise the second port that is electrically connectable directly to the connector of the tip and ring cable of the central office comprises the step of:

selecting the second port to comprise a female interface that is electrically connectable directly to a male interface that comprises the connector of the tip and ring cable of the central office.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the splitter unit comprises a first splitter unit, wherein the POTS interface circuit comprises a first interface circuit, and further comprising the step of:

selecting a second splitter unit that comprises a port that is electrically connectable directly to a connector of a second interface circuit of the switch of the central office.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of selecting the splitter unit that comprises the port that is electrically connectable directly to the connector of the POTS interface circuit of the switch of the central office comprises the step of:

employing the splitter unit to prepare one or more lines of the central office for asymmetric digital subscriber line service.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the POTS interface circuit comprises a physical dimension, wherein the step of selecting the splitter unit that comprises the port that is electrically connectable directly to the connector of the POTS interface circuit of the switch of the central office comprises the step of:

selecting the splitter unit to comprise a physical dimension that substantially matches the physical dimension of the POTS interface circuit.

A 24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the physical dimension of the POTS interface circuit comprises a first physical dimension of the POTS interface circuit, wherein the POTS interface circuit comprises a second physical dimension, wherein the step of selecting the splitter unit that comprises the port that is electrically connectable directly to the connector of the POTS interface circuit of the switch of the central office comprises the step of:

selecting the splitter unit to comprise a second physical dimension that substantially matches the second physical dimension of the POTS interface circuit.

25. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein operably locating the splitter unit on the shelf with the POTS interface circuit serves to reduce a wiring length between the splitter unit and the POTS interface circuit.

A 26. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein the shelf is located in a rack, wherein operably locating the splitter unit on the shelf with the POTS interface circuit serves to increase an amount of available space in the rack.

27. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein the splitter unit and the POTS interface circuit connect to form an integral unit.
